



Public Libraries

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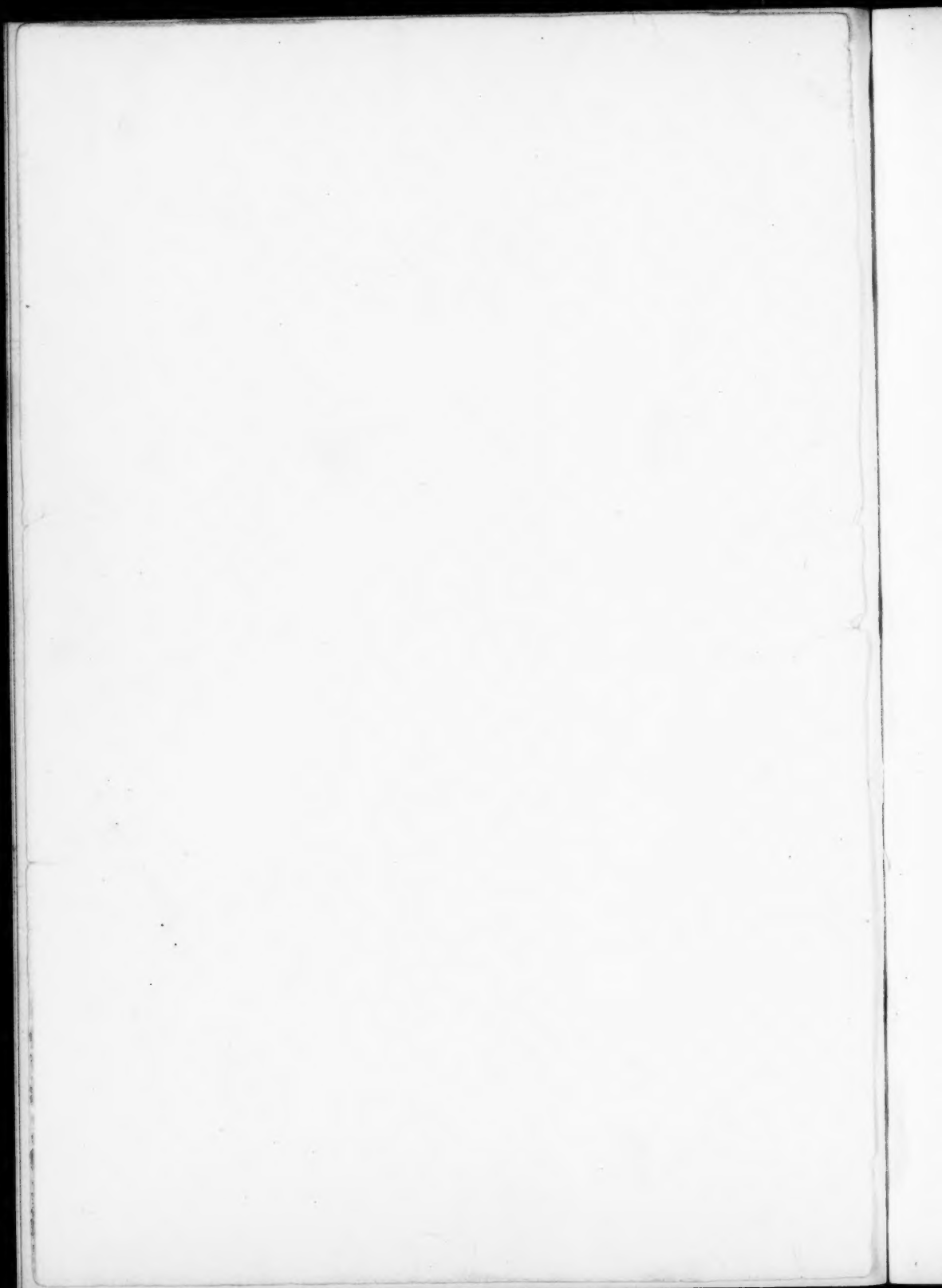
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An Over Use of Books

Prof. R. C. Davis, librarian, University of Michigan

To the making of everything there go materials and labor. What are the materials and what is the character of the labor that go to the making of a scholar? The contents of books, illustrative apparatus, the phenomena of nature apprehended by the senses, are the materials. Absorption by mental processes of the contents of books, and observation and study of the illustrative apparatus and the phenomena of nature, are the labor. An excess in any one particular, or a lack in any one particular, results in imperfection in the product.

Now, I think I have observed both an excess and a lack in the present pursuit of scholarship. This generation reads too much—that is the excess—and thinks too little—that is the lack. How has it come to pass that one reads too much? That he does so is often the reason why he thinks too little. But why does he read too much?

One answer to my question may be another, viz: Does he? Do those of this generation read too much? Can you demonstrate it? In an attempt to do so I will first adduce the evidence of my senses—seeing and hearing. This excessive application to books has come much under my observation in my 20 years of library service. The spectacle at first excited my admiration as a most gratifying thing; then it excited my curiosity as a phenomenal thing; while now it excites my apprehension as an

abnormal thing. How much time, I asked one of those persistent readers—a young man—do you devote to reading? Eighteen hours daily, he answered. What time, I asked, is left for reflection? None, was the reply, and I want none now. By and by thinking shall have its turn. Others have not been able to see any good in thinking. If they could read, why think, they ask, when the books furnish one, without the trouble of thinking, with better thoughts than one is capable of thinking himself.

The second evidence of my assertion that I will adduce is the character of the greater number of the books that are produced. By these we may fairly gauge the thinking of the time.

In a review of a book on a subject that gave every opportunity for thought, was fairly provocative of thought, indeed, I found expressed in a few words the gist of most of the reviews of other books. We have, says this reviewer, observed no single thought in this volume which discloses any power on the part of the author to think for herself.

There are no books now in which great creative power is displayed—none which illustrate happily Milton's fine description: Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potencie of life in them to be as active as that soule was whose progeny they are. There are few, indeed, in which much skill is apparent in the handling of the facts gained by incessant reading. They are not sharply drawn, or their effect heightened by a suitable background.

Charles Reade, who is the philosopher everywhere, says in one of his novels: The man whose knowledge all comes from reading accumulates a great number of what? facts? no; of shadows of facts, shadows often so thin, indistinct and featureless than when one of these facts themselves runs against him in real life he does not know his old friend round about which he has written a smooth leader and a ponderous trifle in the *Polysyllabic review*. (Love me little, love me long, vol. 1, page 69, Triibner edition, London, 1859.)

In offering these evidences of the truth of my assertions in regard to the reading and thinking of the present time, my reliance for producing conviction is not so much on any particular weight that my experience will carry, as on an inevitable comparison in your minds of your experience with mine. I am sure that the result of such a comparison will be your admission that I have a case here.

I will now proceed to detail the reasons that occur to me for the existing evil.

1 The characteristic of the generation is haste—haste to become learned, haste to become rich. The haste to become rich is an admitted evil that has lowered morals, brought about an undesirable state of society, and threatens still greater evils. The haste to become learned has brought a system of cramming. Whether the collection of information on a subject is a chosen task of the individual, or an imposed one, the process is the same—an uninterrupted acquisition of facts and opinions bearing on the subject. The transition from one author to another is not marked by any pause or any consideration of what has been read. It is only turning a leaf at longer intervals, and when the investigation of a subject has been finished, because a time limit has been reached, the transition to the next subject is made with no less expedition than the transition from one author to another.

2 This method seems to carry the student forward most rapidly toward

his goal. The many pillared, broad domed temple of knowledge looms as grandly in the distance. The highway to it is filled with hurrying multitudes. To be foremost, or abreast of the foremost, is the ambition of all.

3 It is easier to read than to think. It is hard to think closely and continuously before the mind has been trained to it by long practice. Reading is running on the level. Thinking is climbing an up-grade.

4 The supply of books is inexhaustible, practically. For a whole century, as year has succeeded year, there has been a constantly increasing output of books. In the last half of the century libraries have increased in number and size at a rate unknown before. Ideas of the functions of libraries have changed radically, and their books are now accessible in a degree scarcely conceived of before. And never before were there such numerous and varied conveniences for learning what authors are in libraries and what subjects they have written upon.

To send out and compel men to come in to a feast has been accepted as hospitality in the superlative degree—as its *ne plus ultra*. We go beyond that—we box up our intellectual viands and send them to those whom we cannot compel to come in.

Let me recapitulate these causes of too much reading and too little thinking.

A fever of haste is in the veins. Reading seems the faster way to get on—an easier thing to do, it certainly is, and in the plentitude of books no interruption of reading occurs. Such a catastrophe as the exhaustion of the supply of books might force the student to seek some means of growth and progress within himself; but the supply is too great ever to be exhausted.

In what I have said have I implied any condemnation of books as books? and do you expect me, when I come to remedies for my evils, to proscribe books? We are agreed that there are useless books and pernicious books that ought never to have been produced,

or, having been produced, ought to be burned; beyond that I do not go. Men are harmed by overeating, but the nation observes, and very properly, a day of thanksgiving for those bountiful harvests that fill the land with plenty.

There is the most complete analogy between the functions of the body and those of the mind. The body must have food which it must digest and assimilate if it is to grow healthfully. The mind must have food which it must digest and assimilate if it is to grow healthfully. Reading and observation are the food in the latter case. It is digested and assimilated by thinking. If it is not thus digested and assimilated there is no intellectual growth—there can be none.

Reading, one will quote you from Bacon, maketh a full man. Yes, and this "full man" will "speak of trees from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall; he will speak also of beasts and fowl and of creeping things and of fishes," and this which was all of Solomon's repertoire is but a small portion of his. But it is needless to say that this information is encyclopedical merely, and its possessor only a perambulating encyclopedia. It is the man of one book, which he has absorbed into his being, of whom we are to beware.

Another cries: I will fill myself up by reading, and by and by, when I am quite full, there will come a spark and ignite my acquisitions and I shall be all ablaze. Inspiration! This one dreams. These sparks are the rarest of rare things. He who shines in the intellectual world gets on fire in altogether another way. He rubs his acquisitions constantly, the one against the other, until the friction produces fire and the fire light, and he shines like a sun. But he who has done nothing but acquire for a long period cannot do this. His unused faculties, which constitute his rubbing apparatus, have atrophied, and he cannot get on fire—cannot be a sun, a light-giver, but only a dead moon reflecting the light that others give.

I suppose there are times when men are inspired to utter beautiful things, and moving and convincing things; but not all that seems the inspiration of the moment, whether it reveals itself in words or action, is such, but has been thought out and elaborated in every detail. Milton, in the wonderful opening lines of *Paradise lost*, invokes the aid of the Holy Spirit, and such is the semblance of spontaneity in the poem that one might think his prayer granted; but in this very invocation there is a revelation of the process which gave so great a possession to the world.

Thou, he says, thou from the first wast present, and with mighty wings outspread, dovelike sate brooding on the dark abyss, and made it pregnant.

So the wealth of classical lore that Milton has accumulated was dead, inert matter until his mind "brooded" over it; and then, just as the Holy Spirit brooding over the formless void brought out of it the beautiful world and the glad song of the morning stars and the shouting of the sons of God, so the mind of Milton, by a like process, warmed dead and formless matter into life and beauty.

The teaching of these negative truths to students is one, and the first of the remedies that I would prescribe, viz: that the "full man," that reading alone, makes it an inferior product; and that what is known as inspiration cannot be counted on to leaven measures of unleavened acquirement.

When these truths are recognized and admitted I think there will be a demand for teaching of a positive nature. Teaching of this nature has not been neglected, but, unfortunately, the teachers of the subject are too far removed from those who need to be taught.

The first way in which reading can be lessened and thinking increased is in the approach to books. The present method is, if the books have not been specified by someone, teacher or other, to go straight to a subject index, and then to cram from the books referred to there.

In a brief conversation with Dr Charles Briggs I found him heterodox on another subject than theology. He saw more of evil than of good in subject indexes. Those who rely on them get facts, but no training. At a time when his intellectual muscles should be vigorously exercised for strength and growth, the user of the indexes is carried all the time, and, by and by, when he wishes to walk—when it is necessary for him to walk—he cannot do it. It were better to throw the indexes all aside and get the information by a more laborious way. The labor would not be lost, but would count for more in the preparation for the future—for the rough and tumble of life—than would a great magazine of facts with no technical skill to handle them.

Such heresy almost took my breath away. On reflection, however, I could see that while he would be voted down in this matter also, there was strength in his position. If the reasoning powers get no exercise they do not grow.

In my attempts to teach persons to get at the contents of a library, I treat the use of the indexes as a means of "getting into position." To "get into position" is to get the common fund of knowledge on the subject to be investigated. An analysis of this fund is then to be made. Suppose the subject to be a person. You have learned when he lived and what his chief characteristics were. It will help your conception of him to know what were the characteristics of his period, and whether he was in sympathy with his time, or out of sympathy—make the necessary study of the period, therefore. You have learned, also, in what great movements he was an actor, and with what ones of his contemporaries he was on terms of friendship, or enmity. Here again your conception of him will be helped by learning the estimate that the historians of the movements have formed of him, and by perceiving what figure he makes in the memoirs (if there are such) of these contemporaries, who were his friends or his enemies and consequently has decided opinions concerning him.

Examine, therefore, all these sources of information. If a conspicuous figure, he, or his fame, if he be dead, has attracted the notice of travelers to his place and country, and they have preserved something of him in their accounts of these travels—some anecdote, or fact, or opinion, not to be found elsewhere. Often these will be of a doubtful value, but when you have made a discount for national prejudices and personal idiosyncrasies, there will still remain some percent of gainful matter. The Travels that relate to the proper country, therefore, and to the time, or subsequent to the time, should be consulted.

I think I have said enough to indicate the method which I attempt to teach. There should be a resort to the indexes first for a working knowledge of the subject. Then they should be abandoned. The facts of which one has become possessed should be so manipulated, so interrogated, that they will both reveal the existence of other facts and where they may be found—the progress is not in a right line, but in an ever widening circle.

That the indexes should not be used to put one expeditiously into possession of what I have called a working knowledge of the subject, no one, I think, will contend—not even Dr Briggs—if they are used simply to secure a vantage ground for the exercise of the reason, and not as a finality.

The conditions of life are not what they were in the past. A comparison involves a paradox—the world is both larger and smaller than it was then. Subjects for study and observation have multiplied, but the law that assures intellectual growth and strength to him who reads and observes and thinks, has undergone no change.

With what shall we accompany our reading that we may derive from it the greatest knowledge and the most discipline? "Attend," was an injunction of the historian Gibbon, "to the order, not of your books, but of your thoughts." Parallel with the thoughts of your author carry your own thoughts; but if,

at any time, your thoughts are moved to make excursions, suffer them to do so. The book can be resumed when the excursions are over. Progress in the book will be slow, reading in this way, but when it is done how much will be done! It was thus that Gibbon himself read. He, for instance, "stopped reading Homer on one occasion to refer to a chapter of Longinus; this suggested a letter of Pliny, and this again sent him off to Burke on the Sublime and the beautiful."

Permit me now to restate briefly the remedies that I have prescribed at some length, and, first, those that are negative in their character.

Readers should be taught that reading alone does not make a scholar in the highest sense of the word, but only a book-learned man—not always this.

That reliance on inspiration to bring results that only follow mental toil is a vain reliance. In the more than a thousand years since Cædmon to how many others has it been said, Sing for me.

Then it should be taught positively, that in the investigation of a subject the examination of prescribed references and the references of the indexes are but preliminaries to the real work of investigation. The things learned from the books thus referred to are only the given things in a problem—the things that the reason must manipulate, must conjure with, to find the unknown quantities.

It is generally conceded that a list of books compiled by someone who is an authority on the subject, and without regard to publisher, author, etc., is of the most value to librarians, or in fact, anyone who desires to purchase books. A. C. McClurg & Co. have just issued a Classified catalog of scientific and technological books, prepared by a society for the promotion of engineering education, and will be glad to forward it to anyone who may apply for the same. Libraries are especially invited to send for the list.

A Conception of Librarianship

Lodilla Ambrose, Ph. M., Northwestern university library

A boastful spirit exalts neither an individual nor a profession, but a worthy ideal stimulates to greater attainment. While not magnifying unduly the office of librarian, it is well to consider what is involved in being a librarian—well both for the one already in service, and for the novice still in preparation. It profiteth little to reason concerning the relative importance of executive and scholarly qualifications, and those other human traits that minister to achievement in any calling. All are essential.

As an executive officer, the librarian is the head of an institution, charged with its administration, and, as such, having relations to his staff, to his business world, and to his public. Subject, of course, to the approval of his governing board, it falls to him* to formulate and carry out the working policy of the library.

His staff he selects with a view to the highest efficiency in library service; he organizes it with a wise division of labor; he promotes among its members a just appreciation of the importance of their work, and holds them to strict account. The qualifications of the heads of departments determine the necessary extent of his own revision of the work of the staff; yet he maintains such a strict and personal supervision of all departments that it is understood that any detail, however minute, may be examined at any time.

The business of his office is conducted on the same basis of efficiency as is elsewhere demanded. He has supervision of the library building, and is a faithful keeper of the valuable collections committed to his care. Beyond the library building, his business relations have a wide range, including other libraries, national and state governments, book-sellers, bookbinders, publishers, printers, agents, etc. The library correspondence, and the orders for books, period-

*Following the traditions of the English language, but not the facts of the profession, the masculine pronoun is used throughout.

cals, binding, printing, and all manner of supplies, with the bills therefor, pass through his hands. If the library gets, as a private buyer would get, good value for money expended, it is due to his persistent vigilance and special knowledge. He cultivates every practical talent that he possesses or can acquire.

I turn here to matters relating more particularly to the university library, but the application to the public library is one easily made.

The public which a university librarian aims to serve is made up of the university faculty and students and certain resident scholars or thoughtful readers whose needs are not met by the local public library. For this public he comes to be the soul of the library, making it, not a dead aggregation of books, but a living organism animated by his own energy and enthusiasm. When he considers his relations to the faculty, he is confronted with the problem—delicate and difficult—of being a teacher of teachers, a specialist among specialists, putting his technical knowledge of bibliography at their service as a friend and not as a critic. With students he is both teacher and friend to the fullest extent that the time and strength at his disposal will allow him to be.

The university librarian brings to his profession a severe academic training. After entering it, he rarely has an opportunity to conduct for himself any protracted research. But he has the scholarly mind keenly appreciative of the spirit of investigation. He has a wide and increasing knowledge of subjects and languages. This knowledge is necessarily diversified rather than specialized, but within its own limits it is trustworthy. To general knowledge he adds special attainments in bibliography and library technique, and advances himself in these at every opportunity. He knows where information is to be found and knows it quickly. In all his thinking and working he is orderly and accurate. He places himself at the disposal of others; his device is, "I serve."

He finds himself beset by some disadvantages, but recognizes them as largely those that are common to all who do the world's work. In spite of drawbacks he believes in his profession. He even keeps in advance of his constituents and aims to increase the demands that they will make upon him. He believes, as the late librarian of Harvard university, Justin Winsor, believed, "that the position of librarian, placed in control of a large accumulation of books to be arranged for the best interests of a community of scholars, is an honorable position of grave responsibility, and should rank in the academic scale with the professor's chair."

A Warning Against a Fraud

The librarian of one of the best libraries in the country tells the following:

I have been victimized, through my guilelessness, by a man naming himself Harry E. Cox, who followed me to my house when I was at home sick for a few days and favored me with a long story of his father's connection with the Free public library of San Francisco. He was stranded for two or three days "waiting a remittance." With a superb belief in human nature I let him have \$2. Was it not lucky I gave him no more? It has proved a permanent investment, and Mr Clark, librarian of the Public library of San Francisco says there never has been anyone of that name employed in his library, nor does a search of the city directory disclose the fact of a Harry E. Cox having lived in San Francisco at any time in the last 15 years. Someone of this name worked our dear, mutual friend — in a similar way a year ago. — did not feel disposed to make known his having been induced to make one of these permanent investments without sufficient information. I think it might be well to say in PUBLIC LIBRARIES that two librarians having been induced to advance this man money, it should be known to the public that he fails to repay and is therefore unworthy of confidence or cash.

Old Probabilities in the Library: His Vaticinations

Arthur E. Bostwick, New York public library

The unreliability of prophecies in general is well known. In the library world, as elsewhere, certain unforeseen and sudden changes occur, changing the entire trend of progress from its apparently natural direction. For instance, all prognostications of the growth of the library movement, made twenty years ago, have been completely upset by the rapid and remarkable expansion made possible in recent years by Mr Carnegie's munificent gifts to libraries.

*The present stock of books is increasing rapidly—will this necessitate an indefinite increase in the number of library buildings? To a certain extent this question will be answered through the operation of natural causes. The oft-lamented perishable nature of the materials used in modern bookmaking will result in a survival of the fittest among books as elsewhere. The style of the future library building is still an open question. There is at present a constant strife between the architect and the administrator, the one standing for beauty and the other for utility; however, the modern tendency seems to be toward simple dignity in library architecture. Open shelves are a feature apparently unknown to many architects, while there are now few large libraries in the country which do not use the open-shelf system to a more or less limited extent. The stack-room, to which readers are permitted access in some libraries, is nevertheless regarded as a distinctly closed shelf arrangement, and the architect of future library buildings must consider the construction of rooms having book shelves around the walls, or low enough to be looked over, for the convenient installation of the open-shelf system. The latter will probably not be universally adopted, as the number of books lost at present in large libraries having this arrangement will ultimately demand that free access, in large collections at any rate, be limited in the future.

The library today is reaching out in many directions, and this state of tentative endeavor is unpromising for prophecy. One assertion, however, can be made—the library has never ceased to be a keeper and purveyor of books, despite the wide and varied range of its activities. It may be asked whether the library of the future will sell books, in opposition to publishers and bookstores. In the long run, libraries advertise the book trade, and as a matter of business special privileges should be given them by the latter, though doubtless it will never again be possible for libraries to buy books at the large discounts obtained ten years ago. There will also be an increased cost in the future maintenance of public libraries; salaries are increasing and will continue to do so, while further expense is incurred by the addition of lecture halls and museums, which are now considered necessary adjuncts to free libraries.

Many recent features in the extension of library work have evidently secured a permanent place, among these being children's rooms, traveling libraries, and work with schools. In the case of children's rooms, the question of complete or partial separation only from the main library arises. The former is undoubtedly preferable for adults, but not for the children themselves; in the schools there are many grades for the advancement of pupils, while the library has but two; hence it is advisable not to make the step from one to the other too great. In the traveling library movement there has been an immense growth at a very small expense, the latter explained by the fact that a large amount of the work connected with the circulation of the books is done by volunteer assistance. In the broadening of library work it seems inevitable that in thinly settled districts the traveling library will itself be supplanted by a free-delivery system, under which a collection of books will be taken from door to door, permitting exchanges to be made without the necessity of a journey to the place at which the traveling library is deposited. Cooperation between

libraries and schools is inevitable, and there is plenty of room for the definition of their respective spheres. There is no question but that the school will continue to control its supply of textbooks and will maintain a collection of indispensable reference books, while the library will distribute supplementary reading. It will be necessary to continue what has already been successfully done in many cases—the formation of friendships between teachers and librarians, through which each will be enabled to learn the difficulties and needs of the other's work.

The library is a great humanizing influence, but much that is humanizing is also ephemeral; still the latter is useful in the whole. Even the much-decried deluge of modern fiction has been educative in its tendency. The recent growth of libraries, owing to Mr Carnegie's gifts, has been abnormal, but the public library is now considered a public necessity throughout the country, although expansion is less rapid in the south, where it is affected by race conditions, than in the north.

Who will use the great libraries of the future? For whose service is the public library intended? The natural answer is, "The public, of course," but this is subject to many reservations. Some regard the free library as instituted for the use of the poor or of students, which is undoubtedly an error, nevertheless it is true that our public libraries are not used by a large number of the people. The recent increase in circulation however has been caused not by an increase in reading, but of readers. Here the lower element drives out the higher, which may ultimately cause the establishment of separate libraries for separate communities, just as at present the branches of great libraries are frequently suited to the demands of the neighborhoods in which they are located. Branch library systems are also increasing, as they are always more successful than delivery stations, which they are rapidly supplanting.

Library statistics may be classed as of two kinds—those which tell the public

of our work, and those which guide our future activities; the first are for publication, the second for study. We now publish too many and study too few, and for future success this order must be reversed. As to the librarian of the future: The librarian of the present differs from his predecessor in being less the scholar and more the man of affairs, but the tendency is now rather backward than forward, and it is to be hoped that we may have hereafter libraries which, while using up-to-date methods, may still have a scholarly atmosphere.

The library assistants of the present day are recruited from several sources; first, from library schools, then from apprentice classes established in the libraries themselves, and third, from entirely untrained persons. Graduates of library schools are increasingly in demand for higher positions, but when the supply exceeds the demand these will accept lower positions also, forcing out the untrained assistants and ultimately the apprentices. In conclusion, this is merely an endeavor to estimate the current in which the library movement is flowing. It is always easier to swim with the stream than against it, while drifting means ruin.

A bibliography of Canadian fiction in English, upon which L. J. Burpee of Ottawa, and Lewis E. Horning of Toronto, have worked for several years, has been issued by the Victoria university library as Publication No. 2. There are but 200 copies for sale at \$1 each.

The list consists of four divisions, as follows: Authors alphabetically arranged with biographical notes and lists of works in book form; titles of works of unknown authors; pen names of Canadian writers; list of foreign authors with list of their works, the scenes of which are laid in Canada.

The authors disclaim any idea of offering a complete list, but modestly claim only a beginning in a work that offers much research. The pamphlet of 82 pages is typographically well done by Wm. Briggs of Toronto.

Traveling Library Schools

Melvil Dewey, State director of libraries, Albany, N. Y.

We developed the traveling library and proved its great usefulness. The traveling librarian is now to be evolved in inspectors and experts who can teach in the various institutes, visit normal and other schools and give inspiration or short courses of instruction, and in this way carry to people who can not afford a first-class librarian, as much of benefit as can be condensed into a short period.

The time is ripe now to start the third factor which may be called something else but which will be in fact a traveling library school. We have found great practical good coming from the annual trips for 10 years of our students who visit the most prominent libraries. The utmost courtesy has been shown by the librarians who have vied with each other in giving all the help practicable. They have been more willing to do this because they take 50 librarians at once and devote only a single day, instead of having them scattered through the year one at a time, requiring almost 50 times as much attention. There is no doubt of the great value to librarians, young and old, of visiting certain typical libraries and studying their methods and resources. There is no doubt also that this is a serious burden on those libraries, which ought to be minimized as far as consistent with the service which they are all glad to render to libraries with fewer opportunities. I propose therefore that in a few centers a specified period each year of one or more weeks, preferably a month, be specially assigned for visits from library officials.

Certain members of the staff would be assigned to receiving and helping these visitors as much as possible. Informal lectures or talks would explain the library's resources and methods, and in some cases definite instruction in certain subjects could be offered and dates announced when it would be given so that a visitor who could not spend the entire month could select the time when his own specialty was under considera-

tion. In the national library, besides the regular topics of administration taken up in all large libraries, there would be special dates for copyrights, government publications (including the superintendent of documents work), manuscripts, maps, prints, printed catalog cards, and other topics that could be studied better in Washington than elsewhere, including, of course, in the program, as at the other centers, visits to neighboring libraries worth attention. The natural centers would be the national library with trips to Baltimore; New York with headquarters at Columbia or New York public; Harvard or the Boston public for Boston and vicinity. The New York state library would offer certain facilities not to be found elsewhere for study of a state library department with inspectors, the largest traveling library and picture system, study club and other extension work, and questions of state and law library administration. In Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, Madison, San Francisco, and perhaps other points, the principle could be utilized as soon as the number of visitors scattered through the year became large enough to show demand and burdensome enough to indicate need of this remedy. Some libraries might give the week or month only on alternate years. This would be available not alone to students of library schools, but to older librarians, assistants, and trustees who would take one or more of these centers each year and familiarize themselves to an extent not possible without this systematic provision for their guidance. A public librarian might give a month each year in rotation to a series of these centers with great profit.

Some would like to give a year to this work and on that account it would be desirable for the principal centers to arrange their dates in rotation, choosing in each city the month that would be most enjoyable: Washington when congress was in session; Boston perhaps in summer when the north and south shore and sea trips and beautiful suburban roads would be spe-

cially attractive; New York in the winter when the best entertainments were offered. Possibly the plan will eventually develop someone with special gifts for this kind of work who will spend his time at these libraries in rotation much as Prof. Powers and other experts travel with parties abroad, doubling the benefit received because of their own familiarity not only with the institutions but with the special needs of visitors. This may be a phase of the new national library institute to have a director of this traveling library school who will spend a month at a time in chosen centers and be ready to assist all library officials who come at that time to study the methods and resources of that section.

We should be glad if anyone interested will send suggestions or criticisms on this scheme to us to be preserved and submitted together when the time is ready to start the system. We have already made a beginning in New York by telling people if they can arrange it to come to the state library in June each year when the regular school and summer class are both in session and there are an unusual number of lectures of interest. The next step is for the national library to establish a library month in Washington and these experiments will indicate when the other centers ought to offer their facilities.

There must be no fees for those who attend these library weeks or months, and no library should offer such facilities unless it is willing to take much trouble to help those who come. They should have lists of really desirable boarding places and a circular giving needed information. They should provide tables and other special facilities for study, and make those who come feel more at home than the casual reader who drops in for an hour. In short, a few libraries with marked advantages for this kind of study will receive these visitors as special guests during the annual or biennial library week or month and will find it no little burden, but their return will be the satisfaction of contributing materially to library progress.

The Reflux Influence of Library Work

Frank Barnard Heckman, Germantown branch
of the Free library of Philadelphia

Volumes, almost, have been printed about the relation of the library to this, that, and the other, and of the effect of the librarian's work on Tom, Dick, and Harry, but what of the influence of library work on the librarian—what is the reflux result?

Of course we all assert that the librarian, in the superlative ideal should be: one with a tearful interest in helping men; attractive in personality, great-hearted, patient, merry; able to find anything; who "knows something about everything, and everything about something"; has some capacity for working miracles; is ready to be stoned, beaten, spat upon; can teach the women, interest the children, without their suspecting his effort; make conceit humble, confound ignorance, convert prejudice, all the while keeping his own temper and not making others lose theirs; meet triumphantly that "stupidity against which gods and men labor in vain"; pick up sticks; go through fire and water, for the sake of others with no expectation that they will interest themselves in him, and in general, lead a forlorn life.

There is plenty, and to spare, of advice pointing to this devoutly to be hoped for consummation, but does each 12 hour's work mean "a day's march nearer home"? After having "kept all these from his youth up" what has been "virtue's own reward"? What is the residuum? What does the work give per se?

Surely there must be some rebound. What personal change, development, uplift, or degeneration, comes from the jostle of library experience?

Let us run the hazard of introspection, for the moment, and see.

Evidently, if we harbor pessimism, cynicism must result; the sombre colors will predominate in our dreams after each "day's work." If such feelings become chronic, one had better resign; the ultima Thule of the librarian is

not for him. A large circulation of books will not compensate for a low circulation of—bonhommie. A spiritual, mental anæmic should flee library work as an unimmune flees the plague. If he stays he is certain to take the contagion and inoculate the whole library—workers, patrons, the books, and the atmosphere.

But if, happily, one is enthusiastic, or at least philosophic, there will come an earnest desire, fruiting into continued effort, to pluck the beam out of one's own eye; and the task will be so exacting that the mote in the eye of the patron will not be much in evidence.

In general, to put it broadly, then, the librarian who interests himself in his work will get, as the profits of his experience, a recognition of his own limitations. Nor need they stand as lions in his path—he need not be always bounded by them. These personal limitations are only a temporary injunction, not necessarily a permanent decree since the librarian is the court and can set it aside, if he wills it.

But he must proceed legally. If he attempts to dig down the mountain he would likely be arrested for trespass. Then there are always roads over these big hills, and the way around is not apt to be as long as it seems.

Happy, fortunate, to be envied, is the library worker who finds this road, for he will reach the "promised land." There is always a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to follow, if he keeps his eyes off the ground.

This will be the great reflux wave to catch at high tide.

The *Annual index to periodicals* which W. T. Stead has published for 13 years in connection with the *English Review of reviews* is now to be discontinued, as the publisher has already lost in it about £5000. It has been highly appreciated and used to the greatest advantage, but the number of subscribers has not been sufficient for its maintenance. Libraries particularly will miss its helpfulness in their work.

Exhibit in Lenox Library, New York

To those whose temperament will enable them to pause a moment in the midst of strenuous campaigning, for retrospection, a visit to the new exhibition at the Lenox library may be recommended. The Print department has arranged an exhibit to illustrate methods used during political campaigns to arouse popular enthusiasm and interest. Broad-sides, posters, campaign periodicals, party text-books, songsters, medals, badges, and envelopes are grouped about a nucleus of caricatures, portraits, and other pictorial material drawn from the print room of the library. Completeness has not been, and could not be attained. The aim was rather to illustrate methods by striking examples, not to weary the eye by a superabundance of material.

Certain characteristics are made apparent in this show. The earliest button shown here is one bearing Fremont's portrait; silk badges appear as far back as the Log cabin campaign of 1840; the struggle of '60 appears to have produced the most medals and envelopes; the bitterest caricatures are the anti-Greeley ones by Nast. One notes, too, that the campaign pamphlet, now distributed gratuitously and lavishly, was once regularly published and sold. The Greeley-Grant contest even boasts of a thick octavo volume, illustrated and bound. The hurrah atmosphere of the Log cabin campaign, the blare of the torchlight procession, the illumination of the magic lantern picture thrown on a screen, the raucous eloquence of the cart-tail spellbinder are things which can at best be hinted at by photograph or illustrator, and those aids have been called upon in the present exhibition.

The obvious interest of the subject has occasioned the present exhibition. The student desirous of extracting the full historical value of material such as is here shown, will find a rich store of information on the shelves of the library.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	- - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - -	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

The St Louis meeting—The A. L. A. meeting of 1904 just closed, will pass into the history of the association as one of the high-tide occasions. A new note was struck, pleasing and harmonious and accepted with enthusiasm by those who are striving to make the work worthy of the place assigned to it by Pres. Francis "among the learned professions." The scholarly side of librarianship was emphasized, the cause of books themselves, what they stand for, was presented by persons eminent along these lines. A general survey of the work the world over was afforded by the presence and addresses of representatives from foreign libraries.

Bibliography came into its own at this meeting in a degree not before reached. Non-essential details were pleasingly absent. The technicalities presented at all were along broad lines international in their scope, and presented by those who are authoritative in their utterances and whose judgments are based upon personal knowledge.

But the most important feature perhaps was the presence and participation of so many foreign delegates. A better understanding and appreciation of the spirit and purposes in the work of each other perceptibly grew out of this even during the convention, and the suggestion of Senor Biagi for an international association will doubtless bear fruit in time.

Pres. Putnam was eminently the right man in the right place and to his tact and courteous bearing, to his ability and ideals, was due the great success of the meeting.

Free transportation between libraries--

There was a feeling of embarrassment on the part of the Americans present at the International congress of librarians at St Louis as they learned that several other countries have made provision for free carriage through the mails of books between libraries. This was particularly true in hearing the report from Mr Nyhuus of Norway. In that country the government has made such provision for assistance to the free libraries as to furnish almost a model for the United States or any other country. Books are sent through the mails to libraries and other distributing points free of charge; binding of a most excellent grade is done at a remarkably low price, and other assistance rendered in the same way. Libraries in America certainly are doing an unequaled work in educating and enlightening the public, making a more intelligent citizenship, and it seems inconsistent with all wisdom that the "government for the people" should charge for a service to all the people, while the same service at the same time is rendered to special groups organized for commercial purposes, at a ridiculously low figure. The resolution offered by the council and adopted by the whole association relating to this matter should be brought to the special attention of every congressman in the country in such a way as to secure redress.

Library gifts—A striking feature of the report on gifts to libraries made at the recent A. L. A. meeting at St Louis, was the fact that of the total \$6,103,137 given to libraries last year \$4,595,537 came from other sources than the generosity of Mr Carnegie. It would seem, therefore, that Mr Carnegie's gifts have been a moving incentive to the generosity of others, not the least part of the good which may be expected of them. Some of the libraries built in the early part of the Carnegie movement are already coming to think of more than one benefactor in connection with their welfare.

Naming a library—Without entering into the merits of the particular case under discussion in which Controller Grant, of New York city, said the term library should refer only to a collection of books, we are inclined to reply that the controller is correct, and furthermore, that to name a whole institution and all its appurtenances after someone who has only given a part of it, and that such a part as will in time prove only a small part of the whole, seems eminently to be deplored. The public furnishes the site, usually the books and fittings, pays for repairs and maintenance, extension, and growth. It is the privilege of all citizens to support and embellish such a public tax-supported institution, and this privilege should not be curtailed by putting the name of any donor, individual or association, in the corporate body of the institution. If one chooses to give all the material surrounding a collection of books, to provide for the maintenance of the entire plant for all time, then it is fitting that it should be crowned with the name of its benefactor—not otherwise, as it seems to us. A library is a collection of books, properly organized and administered. How it is housed is another thing, though an eminently important thing.

Portland, Ore., in 1905—The decision has been made by the A. L. A. council that the next meeting of the association will be held in Portland, Ore. This conclusion was reached after mature deliberation and extended discussion of the various elements involved. It was but natural that those who live on or near the Atlantic seaboard, should hesitate before giving their consent to go so great a distance as Portland. But there was a unanimous consent to make this as good a meeting as possible after a majority of the council voted to hold the meeting in the west.

The greatest emphasis was laid on the help such a meeting would be to those in the great Northwest who are striving in the library propaganda, far from co-workers and under the handicap of a lack of clear understanding of the value

and force of coöperation, on the part of a great many persons who have the power to mar or make the success of the work attempted. In view of this fact it is incumbent upon as many as possible of the chief librarians to attend the Portland meeting, particularly among those whose libraries stand for progress in the extension of the work. Trustees also, through whose sound business judgment and personal appreciation of the value of a good library many places in the United States are today enjoying high educational advantages and increasing happiness, would do a good work for another as well as find recreation and profit to themselves, by joining the party which will go to the Pacific coast next summer on a library pilgrimage.

Assistants who can possibly achieve it, and very many by a little planning can do so, ought by all means to broaden their outlook in professional lines, increase their knowledge of the extent and resources, beauty and grandeur of their own country and enjoy a complete change by going to this meeting of librarians on this extraordinary occasion.

This is the only section of the country of any extent that has not been visited by the A. L. A., and a meeting held there is sure to carry with it an inspiration and helpfulness unequaled in any previous trips. Things are large in the Northwest—things material and things spiritual and intellectual; enthusiasm is unbounded; faith is unlimited, and with all the gathered stores of previous conferences and experiences a meeting of the A. L. A. in such a place and among such a people ought to mark an epoch from which to date, both for the visited and the visitor.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES is pledged to work for the success of the occasion—the going, the meeting, and the post-conference trip. We will welcome, therefore, any suggestions or communications concerning any phase of the question from those who are interested. A list of the names of those who will probably go will be printed from time to time, and any thing else that will in any way help the plans or add to the interest.

American Library Association

Twenty-sixth annual meeting, St Louis, Oct.
17-22, 1904

When the final decision to hold the A. L. A. meeting for 1904 in St Louis was made, most library people sighed, thinking of the effort, inconvenience, lack of value in essentials, and break in continuity of interest the idea of an exposition meeting suggested. Never was so vain a fear entertained and never was such a meeting of the A. L. A. held as that which has just closed at St Louis. It was unique in many ways. Not even the Library congress at Chicago in 1893 equaled it in point of attendance, entertainment, and interest. It was a distinct advance in dignity, scope and attendance. Larger visions were opened to everyone present, and as one person new in the work expressed it, Though I don't understand what all of it means, I feel as if the subject was worth the devotion of a lifetime to find out.

The meetings were dignified from start to finish, without being ponderous. The foreign delegates added a flavor that was delightful. Their contributions were interesting and suggestive. Their attitude was one of interest and their expressions were most kind and complimentary. Those who spoke, talked to the point and stopped when they reached it. The milestones of library conferences were moved forward in no inconsiderable degree, and standards of no mean guage were advanced by this meeting.

The foreign delegates were elected honorary vice-presidents, and Pres. Putnam paid them the honor of vacating the chair for each in turn during the week. Letters from a number of prominent foreign librarians who were not able to be present were read, and various suggestions as to the value of a closer bond between libraries and their interests in all parts of the world were offered. From Russia, New Zealand, from Denmark, from Chili, and from many other places came letters showing progress and interest that was gratifying.

Mr Crunden welcomed the conven-

tion to St Louis as only Mr Crunden can do. Pres. Francis was very felicitous in his welcome to the exposition and in view of the fact that he had already welcomed more than 300 other conventions, showed an unusual grasp of the library situation. He said he wished to acknowledge librarianship as one of the learned professions and one whose influence was lasting. After pointing out what good might be accomplished by such a meeting, he said he hoped an international association of librarians and bibliographers might grow out of its deliberations. This seemed to strike an answering chord in the minds of those present and was the keynote of much of the extemporaneous speech throughout the rest of the conference.

L. Stanley Jast of England, accredited delegate from the L. A. U. K., expressed in a few happy phrases the pleasure afforded by the opportunity of meeting American librarians. He complimented the members of the association on the vast opportunities afforded American libraries and the advantage that was so well taken by those in library work in America. He spoke for the foreign delegates in extending congratulations and fraternal greetings.

Dr Putnam's address as president traced the growth of the influence of librarians. If in the past the fame of a librarian, to endure, must have been gained either for some unusual personal trait or achievement in some outside field, in the future it is likely to be still more so, for the modern library is an elaborate organization, requiring in its chief rather the general administrator than the personal interpreter. The consummate administrator is supposed to be he who renders the organization independent of himself. How then can his personality stand out distinct, or his mere name endure? He has put himself into the institution. In proportion as it succeeds he becomes anonymous. He cited the fame of those in days past to show that they were remembered in lines other than as librarians. Books have played no unimportant part in the de-

velopment of America, and the office of librarian needs not to be magnified but to be lived up to. At the time of the Louisiana purchase, 100 libraries contained in all 50,000v. Today 10,000 libraries contain over 50,000,000v.; 59 libraries contain over 300,000v.; more than 300 libraries contain 50,000v. These figures are not our pride but what libraries have done for learning in all time. Our task is to spread not merely the knowledge of books but the knowledge of the utility of books. In a democracy of equal liberty and equal opportunity, the education of the individual is the safety of the state.

The various official reports of the association showed the usual condition of the association. The available income for 1904 from the endowment fund is \$6873.75, of which \$5716.04 must be devoted to the work of the Publishing board, leaving \$1157.71 which can be used for any other purpose at the discretion of the council.

Owing to unavoidable interruptions the program for each day as printed was not followed, but most of the material was presented at some time during the conference.

On Tuesday morning L. Stanley Jast read a very interesting paper on the Various forms of library extension in Great Britain. The ideal of the public library seemed to be more informational along educational lines rather than, as is common here, educational along recreative lines. Library extension work in England follows four lines, viz: Lectures in the library on special topics; Reading at the library from selected works; Book exhibits with explanations of same; Receptions to clubs, classes, etc., interested in various lines of study. These plans have proved satisfactory in attaching people to the library and are only limited in effect by lack of room to grow.

H. Nyhuus of Norway read one of the sprightliest papers of the conference. Mr Nyhuus spent several years in the Chicago public libraries in the days of Dr Poole in those libraries, and became acquainted with American methods, at

the same time being greatly influenced by Dr Poole's ideas and ideals of library work. He afterwards returned to his native land and organized the public library of Christiania. In this he adopted most of the good methods he had acquired previously, and as opportunity offered progressed beyond the limits set to many of them here. Mr Nyhuus traced the growth of libraries in Norway down to the present time when there are state-supported town and county libraries, traveling libraries and school libraries. A step in advance of America is the privilege of sending books to and from public libraries free through the mails. He showed some good binding done by the state for which the libraries pay only 11 cents a volume. Card catalogs and finding lists are printed by the state. Printed cards are furnished libraries at 1 cent each.

Mr Nyhuus closed his paper with the following:

The library organization of Norway owes much to American experts and to American library progress in general. I think it would make all of you feel well to see a small library under the polar circle using the latest American lending system. In our business we do not need to look upon each other with anxious eyes, trembling lest somebody might have stolen our latest patent. Any one of us who has been fortunate enough to do something to shorten the way between the book and an interested reader will be delighted to see his system and ideas copied and used.

I admit and recognize with the greatest pleasure the influence of the American library movement on our effort in far-away Norway. And in the name of the Norwegian state-supported libraries, I tender the American librarians, who are here so prominently represented, our sincere thanks.

Miss Lord read a paper prepared by Dr Lange of Denmark, on the Research libraries of that country.

Mr Dewey was called on to discuss it and emphasize the thought that a library is an essential feature of any educational institution and a public library is

necessary to the general welfare of any community.

On Wednesday various reports and papers were read somewhat under difficulties, as such a crowd gathered about the outside entrance to the building, on account of the presence of Helen Kellar, that most of the library people could not enter.

State aid to libraries was presented by Gratia Countryman of Minneapolis, and was discussed by Mr Dewey. Miss Countryman's paper traced the development of commissions, traveling libraries and the like in the 22 states where state aid has been established as a principle. The paper will be issued as a commission bulletin.

R. G. Thwaites outlined the location of the various exhibits at the fair of interest to librarians and historians.

A brief history of the life and noble work of the late Karl Dziatsko, for 25 years librarian of the University library, Göttingen, Germany, and one of the foremost librarians and bibliographers of the world, was given by his successor at Göttingen, Prof. Richard Pietschmann. Prof. Pietschmann spoke in his native tongue.

Dr Putnam read a letter from Signor Desidario Chilovi of Florence, Italy, in which he hoped for another international congress in Europe. He also suggested the adoption of an international symbol to indicate classification to which books of international interests belong. He expressed approval of the D. C. He also suggested the printing of slips for government publications to be sent in international exchange and loans. He also gave an account of the new library building for the National library at Florence.

Dr Guido Biagi of Florence, told of the measures adopted by the government, warned by the fire at Turin, to prevent further damage to the priceless treasures in the libraries of Italy. The laws of Italy are growing more liberal, and free lending libraries are growing. A resident in Rome may have at one time 35 books from the several state libraries. Italy has a free post law for

library books. A bill for more and better free libraries in towns and provinces is under consideration. These Dr Biagi pronounced of more value than the dirty bills of the national banks. They hope for traveling libraries in agriculture and various industries in the rural districts.

Dr Biagi made a plea for an international association of librarians to represent special collections.

Dr. Biagi presented to the American library association a copy of the new edition of the *Rerum Italicarum scriptores* of Muratori.

In introducing Dr Aksel Andersson, vice-librarian Universitetsbibliotek, Uppsala, Sweden, Pres. Putnam spoke very highly of the institute which Dr Andersson represented, and of the gentleman himself. Dr Andersson's subject was the Research libraries of Sweden, and in his paper he told many interesting particulars of the work in that country.

The tone of the morning was distinctively hopeful, and Dr Putnam added much to the pleasure of the occasion by his felicitous remarks in carrying the program forward. Thursday afternoon the librarians visited the St Louis mercantile and the Public libraries.

The report of J. L. Harrison on gifts and bequests was most interesting. The following extracts are made from it:

Five hundred and six gifts are reported, representing in all 137,318v. and \$6,103,137. An analysis of the money gifts show that \$732,359 was given as endowment funds for general library purposes, \$198,654 for the establishment of book funds, \$78,709 for the cash purchase of books, \$1,507,600, of which \$970,100 is reported as accepted from Andrew Carnegie for buildings; \$2,750,419 from various donors for buildings, \$27,400 for sites, and \$642,496 for purposes the objects of which could not be ascertained. The item consists for the most part of bequests, and presumably will be largely invested as endowment funds. In addition, 15 sites, the value of which is not known, are reported, and also gifts of buildings and grounds to the amount of \$155,000. The gifts of the year, other than those

made by Mr Carnegie, amount to \$4,595,537. This includes 36 gifts of \$5000 each, 18 of \$10,000, 9 of \$15,000, 7 of \$20,000, 5 of \$25,000, 2 of \$30,000, 4 of \$35,000, 3 of \$40,000, 1 of \$45,000, and 21 of from \$50,000 to \$600,000.

Among the interesting gifts may be mentioned Mrs Charles A. Cutter's gift of \$5000 to Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., as a memorial to her husband, and for the purpose of establishing an endowment fund, the income to be used for increasing the librarian's salary; \$6000 from Edwin H. Cole to St Lawrence university, also for the purpose of creating an endowment fund for the salary of the librarian; the Morse collection of Japanese carvings, valued at \$10,000, to Princeton university, and a handsome stained glass window, Hans Christian Andersen with the children, purchased with money raised by popular subscription and given as a Christmas gift to the children's room of the Milwaukee public library.

The report on Mr Carnegie's gifts is limited to those in the United States. They number 100, and amount to \$1,507,600. In their distribution the North Atlantic division of states received \$505,800, the South Atlantic \$100,000, the South central \$75,000, the North central \$601,800, and the Western \$225,000. Of the states receiving the greatest number of gifts, Minnesota ranks first with 13, California second with 12, and Iowa and Wisconsin third, with 9 each. Two gifts were for branch libraries, 13 for college libraries, 1 for an institutional library, 1 for library equipment, and 83, including 12 additional gifts, for public libraries. The total additional gifts amount to \$107,900, varying in sums from \$2500 to \$25,000, and the gifts to colleges, which seem to be increasing, to \$390,000.

The report urges the Library association to consider means of securing more full and accurate reports of gifts, especially by adopting a tabulated form of inquiry blank. It is suggested also that the different state commissions, Massachusetts being particularly referred to as an example, might do much to increase

the value of the annual report by turning their data over to the association at a definite time each year.

Henry A. Bond of Woolwich, England, had sent in a paper on Recent library progress, which was read by Miss Stearns of Wisconsin, treating the period from 1897. He covered the subject very fully, dealing chiefly with classification, cataloging, annotation, open access, showing progress in all these lines.

A hopeful sentence from the paper by John Ballinger of Cardiff, who has done such excellent work in connecting the public schools and the public libraries of that place, gave encouragement in the following words: The reading of "penny dreadfuls" has practically ceased since the establishment of school libraries, and the children who read are quicker, more intelligent, easier to teach and brighter in disposition. They develop a better sense of humor, can see a point and laugh more readily than children who do not read, or read only morbid trash.

M. La Fontaine, representing the Bibliographic institute of Belgium, explained the work that is being attempted by the institute and invited the librarians and bibliographers present to become interested and helpful in carrying it forward.

Dr Cyrus Adler of Smithsonian institute, Washington, reported the progress of the work on the International catalog of scientific literature, the first annual issue in 17v. of which is completed. The committee is considering the inclusion of medicine and other applied sciences. Dr Adler opposes the inclusion of medicine since this subject is covered by the *Index medicus*.

Mr Lane read a most interesting paper on Present tendencies in cataloging, claiming for the dictionary catalog the first place in use in popular libraries and rather favoring the classed catalog in libraries for research work.

Saturday morning, the time for the last session, arrived all too soon. A few items were left over from the program of the week to be disposed of, but the

time for the most part was devoted to finishing business in hand and to farewell speeches from delegates.

The proposition of a year book of library literature was presented by W. D. Johnston, of Library of congress.

C. W. Andrews of the John Crerar library, Chicago, in his discussion of Mr Lane's paper on Present tendencies, read on Friday, took exception to the idea that the choice is between a classed and an alphabetical subject catalog. He recommended a combination. Such a combination has been worked out in the John Crerar library, where there is an author catalog, a subject catalog classified according to the D. C., chronologically arranged with the latest title placed first and an alphabetic index to subjects, with entries under some of them.

The charge of complexity of such an arrangement is not well founded. While there is a wide difference of opinion as to the use of the D. C., still those differing are as far apart as the D. C. is from their needs.

A. G. S. Josephson of the John Crerar library, Chicago, suggested the feasibility of an international code of cataloging rules, to be used chiefly by the great national libraries.

The National library of Chili presented to the association a catalog of the books in that library through its delegate, F. A. Bennett.

L. S. Jast spoke of the L. A. U. K. cataloging rules and the feasibility of a common code for international use. It was stated that if England and America agree on such a code it will not be long till other countries will come in and other things will follow, annotation or evaluation for instance. A motion was carried that the A. L. A. executive board take the matter in consideration and make such arrangements as may seem wise.

W. P. Cutter, who has taken up the Expansive classification, announced that he hoped to have the whole scheme completed and distributed in three years.

Electra C. Doren of Dayton gave a

resumé, made up largely of statistics of a comprehensive inquiry among 216 libraries, of the conditions resulting from the library work done by and for schools. A statement that in the circle investigated, there is read one and one-quarter million books, gives food for thoughtful reflection.

Dr Putnam at the close summed up the ground covered by the various papers, and recommendations on cataloging, classification, relation with school, state, aid, etc. He called attention to the fact that all expressed a friendly spirit on affirmative and confirmative sides, saying, practically, I do not deny, for denying is not my business. Dr Putnam then expressed the pleasure and interest of the A. L. A. in having so large a number of foreign delegates present, saying in substance: The meeting has been a success beyond the prophecy of many. From here the work can start for anywhere. This has been but a preliminary to many other meetings; hereafter there will be but intervals between.

The foreign delegates, each in turn, beginning with Senor Velasco from Mexico, followed by Mr Jast from Great Britain, Mr Roberts from Holland, M. La Fontaine from Belgium, Dr Cohn from Austria, Dr Wolfstieg from Germany, Dr Andersson from Sweden, Dr Su from Chinese legation, Dr Biagi from Italy, spoke their appreciation and enjoyment of the conference. Their final words of farewell were spoken in their native tongues and carried thereby an effect most touching to their audience. The delegates were all gentlemen of address and polish, and their very presence lent a charm to the occasion that will not soon be forgotten by those in attendance.

The report from the Council presented the following:

Portland, Ore., is chosen for the meeting in 1905, provided satisfactory rates can be obtained from railroads and hotels for the same.

A committee of five, consisting of pres-

ident of Publishing board and four secretaries of A. L. A. is appointed to consider further the matter of permanent headquarters for A. L. A.

The resolution on binding is referred to new council.

The trustees of the Endowment fund are instructed to pay to the Publishing board whatever money it may call for to prosecute its work.

Referring to the bill passed by the last Congress permitting free post on books for the blind, congratulations were offered and Congress is petitioned to consider exemption for other books sent from library to library. In other countries such exemption is common, and even in this country rates are accorded commercial houses and newspapers.

Thanks are offered to libraries of Europe for courtesies to students and particularly for interlibrary loans.

Having listened with great interest to accounts of various bibliographical undertakings of general concern, including the International catalog of scientific literature, the Concilium bibliographicum of Zurich, and the Institut international de bibliographie of Brussels, the A. L. A. records its appreciation of the unselfish labor, pecuniary sacrifices, and personal devotion which have established and are maintaining these, and expresses its congratulations upon the progress already made.

The A. L. A. has been honored by the presence of the foreign delegates and interested by hearing from them.

A resolution was adopted to the effect that a special committee be appointed to consider plans for the promotion of international coöperation among libraries, which should report at the next annual meeting.

F. M. Crunden of the St Louis public library made a few remarks on the American library association's exhibit in the Palace of Education, and in the Missouri building, and read two communications from the superior jury of awards, notifying him that the latter had received the grand prize and that

he had been awarded a medal as collaborator.

A resolution was passed to appoint a committee to investigate the practicability of an international association.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr E. C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton university, Princeton, N. J.; first vice-president, William E. Foster, librarian of Providence library, Providence, R. I.; second vice-president, Mrs H. L. Elmendorf, Buffalo public library, Buffalo, N. Y.; secretary, J. I. Wyer, jr., University of Nebraska library, Lincoln, Neb.; treasurer, Gardner M. Jones, public library, Salem, Mass.; recorder, Helen M. Haines, *Library journal*, New York; council, William E. Henry, librarian State library, Indianapolis, Ind., H. C. Wellman, librarian, Springfield, Mass., J. C. Rowell, librarian University of California, Berkeley, Cal., Anne Wallace, librarian Carnegie library, Atlanta, Ga., and A. H. Hopkins, librarian Free public library, Louisville, Ky.; trustee of endowment fund, C. C. Soule of Boston, Mass.

Resolutions of thanks to the officers of the exposition and others concerned in the comfort and enjoyment of the A. L. A. were offered by the committee consisting of Dr R. G. Thwaites, Mary Eileen Ahern, and Prof. Dr A. Wolfstieg, which were adopted by a rising vote.

Notes

The reception in the Missouri building to the visitors, by the Missouri commission and the Mercantile and Public libraries of St Louis, was a most elegant affair. The rooms lent spaciousness for a free circuit of the guests, and the appointments were all that could be asked.

Iowa commissions, both state and library, offered similar hospitality, and while the building was not so large the hospitality was as unbounded, and the closer quarters added to the enjoyment of the evening.

Dr Anderson of Uppsala was quite the lion of these several occasions. His interest in everything and cordial response to all, won the hearts of any company in which he moved.

It was a pleasant reunion for the many friends of Dr Biagi who had met him so pleasantly in the International council of 1897, in London, and who held him in high esteem for many library courtesies since received from him.

The conference enjoyed a boat ride around the lagoon on Wednesday night as the guests of the St Louis libraries. The grounds shone out in their greatest beauty under the lights of the illuminations.

On Friday night the librarians were again the guests of the St Louis libraries at Hagenback's trained animal show. Johnny Bear quite won the heart of many librarians.

On Thursday afternoon a visit to the libraries of St Louis was made by the inquirer after new library ideas.

On Thursday morning Pres. Putnam took occasion to call attention to the October number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, which contained the contributions from foreign libraries, speaking in complimentary terms of the idea and commending the number to the visitors.

The presence of so many foreign delegates was a great addition to the meeting in many ways. If more of that class of foreigners would join in the councils held in this country it would lend a better understanding to many problems which librarians as well as other people have to handle in America.

Dr Su, the Chinese delegate, was a delightful visitor. His keen insight into the matters presented, and his appreciation of the good in all of it was most pleasing. His refined manner and pleasing personality charmed all who came in contact with him.

Bibliographical Society of America

Pursuant to plans laid before going to St Louis by those most interested, the Bibliographical society of America was organized at the Inside inn on Tuesday afternoon, October 18. After considerable discussion a constitution was adopted, and the following council elected: President, W. C. Lane; first vice-president, Herbert Putnam; second vice-president, Reuben G. Thwaites;

secretary, C. Alexander Nelson; treasurer, Carl B. Roden; councillors, E. W. Harris, Henry E. Lezlin, John Thomson, James Bain jr.

A. G. S. Josephson, president of the B. S. of Chicago, was added to the council in lieu of an ex-president. The council met on Wednesday and perfected plans for publications and other future work.

The International Congresses

Library section

Not least valuable among the various meetings held during the past summer, at St Louis, were the international gatherings of persons of like mind toward various subjects. These people came together first to listen to each other and then to learn what was possible and best to do under present conditions in the world's progress.

The Library section of the International congress of arts and sciences met at St Louis in the World's Fair grounds on Sept. 23, 1904. About 100 persons were present, a large attendance when the rival attractions of such speakers as James Bryce and other men of note in six other sections of the congress is taken into consideration.

F. M. Crunden, of the St Louis public library was chairman of the section and made an earnest plea for the recognition of the public library as the most effective means of education for the community, before introducing Prof. Guido Biagi of Florence, Italy, and W. E. A. Axon of Manchester, England, the other speakers on the program.

Prof. Biagi's interesting address, given in fluent English, surveyed and summarized the present condition and past achievements in library science and ventured somewhat to anticipate what the future might develop, while disclaiming the character of prophet.

Mr Axon, the last speaker, followed with a very scholarly address upon what the library should do and be, dwelling more upon the ends to be attained than upon the means by which they were to be reached, and drawing with a loving touch the ideal library.

Library Week at Lake Placid

In trying to write again of library week at Lake Placid Club in the Adirondacks, one feels that the beauty and pleasure and delights of the place and time and people outnumber the choice of words to tell of it. In all the land there is nothing more restful, more beautiful, more satisfying than the combination of lake and mountain and field and forest under skies that rise and dip and cover all the plane of vision with a color and atmosphere that is a delight to the soul. To one not burdened with the duty of making the meeting serve its special purpose it must prove a week of satisfying rest to body and spirit. The program this year was fuller and heavier than usual; this was well for the enthusiastic seeker after library lore, but made much work for the officers; still the latter seemed to enjoy it, so an outsider need not complain.

There were about 130 persons interested registered, and the night meetings were well attended. The unusual beauty of the outdoors, owing to the advanced stage of the season, the large number of persons not particularly interested in technical details, limited the day meetings to the enthusiasts and the learners—not a bad thing, perhaps. Mr Dewey gave his usual happy welcome, recalling the fact of its being the tenth library meeting held there, and hoped the decimal system would be carried out and the convention assemble ten times ten years.

At the opening of the first session a large audience listened to the inspiring words of the president, Mrs H. L. Elmendorf, who said in part, in discussing the topic:

The function of the public library in democratic society

is echoed purposely from the title of Pres. Eliot's address before the Brooklyn institute which was called the Function of education in democratic society.

Pres. Eliot, for some of us at least, expresses lucidly and definitely the ideals toward which our profession as-

pires and details the ends which we believe our institutions are powerful to accomplish, yet it never once names the public library, or even in a remote way suggests that the public library stands created and equipped to be the powerful agent through which that continuous education of the feelings, of the mental and moral faculties of the whole people which the illustrious author longs for, might be accomplished.

This is one of many instances that might be cited of the lack of comprehension in high places, of the real purpose of our institutions. It is possible, too, that even we ourselves, do consider our library as learned institutions rather apart from the common life of the common people. If somehow we might, small as well as large, reconsider the question once more and see that the public library is a perfectly inevitable evolution from other developments of our civilization, at once a natural product of that civilization and necessary to its safe development, it could fill full the text of the program.

Mrs Elmendorf took up the claim made for the engineer that it was the man with the tool who had really made civilization possible. Full recognition of the power of iron and steam was traced in the work of writers of poetry, philosophy, and story. She traced the growth of the tremendous work done by mechanical skill and pointed out that it was accomplished with less and less expenditure of human energy. But the result has had certain effects on the worker as well as on the work. As machinery released the hands, the worker has had time to think and to grow, until today the greatest example of government and of state depends entirely upon the intelligence, the sanity, the righteousness of the governed.

The perfection of mechanical tools has brought about the association of those who work, first at their work and from this association has grown acquaintance, and from acquaintance, solidity of interests and its attendant manifestations. Another fact which she

pointed out was the immense stream of humanity of all races, kinds, and degrees of intelligence, pouring into our country to add to the problem of "the experiment in government." Mankind knows well the terrors of government of selfish, careless, uninformed individuals and aristocracy, but needs to fear still more government by a careless, uninformed, and selfish crowd.

Whatever has produced them, these are the conditions today. A large laboring class with leisure enough to be restless, sufficiently developed by their work to be more or less intelligent as to their desires, knowing by being brought into large masses the power of associated action, with the weapon of the franchise in their possession.

The preservation from the danger lies in a truly educated common people. It must be done early and well, as 88 per cent leave school before 14 years of age. Pres. Eliot spoke true. From the total training through childhood should result a taste for interesting and improving reading in the youth which should inspire and direct its subsequent life. The uplifting of the democratic masses depends on this implanting of the taste for good reading.

Mrs Elmendorf at the close of her address introduced Mr Putnam, who said in part:

I am here in three capacities: personally, as librarian of congress, or if you will let me say so, at the head of the National library, and as president, for the time, of the A. L. A. I name them in the reverse order of their dignity. As president of the A. L. A., I view these proceedings with alarm. The only way in which the A. L. A. can compete with library week at Lake Placid is to hold its conference three months in advance; this year our conference comes a fortnight later, and your program at Lake Placid is so manifoldly more captivating than usual that it is a matter of concern to our association. I hope your week will not induce satiety. Leave something for St Louis. You must come to St Louis. As president of the A. L. A.,

I wish to say something for St Louis. In the first place, there is a difference. You meet here in a setting of nature; we meet at St Louis in a setting of the works of man. The exposition is something which a librarian, if he can possibly avoid it, should not miss seeing. Where do we begin with our readers, or rather, where do our readers begin with us? Not with the book, as a rule; he begins with an experience. Now, if the librarian is to be sympathetic with his needs, the more he can be one with him in enjoying the experience, the better chance he has of aiding him. There are few things more informing, in a general way, than a trip abroad, and a great exposition that attempts to gather together the present activities of the world of man, not merely in an industrial way, is in the nature of a trip abroad.

In my other capacities I shall attempt to say something of the topic which you have chosen. It is the biggest question that we have, and it means generalization. I have always been engaged in my library work in administering a particular library, and have never philosophized very much about the history or the justification of libraries. I have always fancied that I could do more good for the general cause by doing the thing at hand at the particular moment, but there is danger of carrying this to excess. I am quite sure of this, that our ultimate position is at present indeterminate, that is, undetermined. There is danger, of course, that we may claim too much, and a claim that can not be substantiated turns into a pretense. If we claim nothing, but proceed to do our work, there will be relatively little objection on the part of the community. Does the community, as a whole, object to any service that any librarian in this room is performing? I see very few objections in the press or in public utterances. The general criticisms, as far as I can see, are directed not at the aim and purpose; they generally criticise the service as to the details of the administration.

Apart from occasional criticism of details, do you find that there is any real doubt as to the place which the public library occupies in the community? I hope that you will feel that each innovation that is suggested here this week will have behind it the approval of the community in which you live. In our library meetings we always approach this phase of our activity with a sense that we are on the defensive. As far as I have observed, no need to approach it in this spirit, as the community is with us. At the same time this difficulty to be met, that results can not be proved, as a rule, by statistics. Of the books circulated it is a question as to how many are read and the influence wrought. We are in some danger of being classed as among the emotional activities. Our work rests on sentiment, but is not the only work that rests on sentiment. Two words we are very fond of using—inspiring, or inspiration, and missionary. These seem to me to belong to a calling different from ours. The public library is a branch of education, but not the root nor the trunk. The librarian is the twig upon the branch. We can be a credit to the community by combining science with our sentiment.

The pleasure gathered from the program of Monday night was repeated on Tuesday night in listening to an address by Dr Geo. E. Vincent of University of Chicago, who spoke on the Library as a social memory. His address was in itself such as might be expected from a doctor of philosophy and a professor of sociology, and delivered in the fluent, magnetic, interested and interesting manner of the speaker, so well known to his audiences, it captured the hearts of his listeners and carried the weight of his words straight to the mark at which he aimed—to emphasize that our national life will be vigorous and progressive in so far as this social memory is accessible, adaptable, organized, active, and sifted. He closed with the following:

Arnold Toynbee once said to a group

of workingmen: Apathy can only be overcome by enthusiasm, and enthusiasm can only be aroused by two things, first an ideal which takes the imagination by storm, and second a definite intelligible plan for carrying that ideal out into practice.

You are not apathetic in your work. We have been warned against sentimentality and effusiveness, yet the fundamental truth is that nothing worth while is accomplished in this world without the combination of enthusiasm with wisdom, the ideal with the plan. I have tried by this survey to present in its broad outlines the social aspect of your chosen work. There is satisfaction in the reflection that you are helping to enrich and broaden individual lives, but there is even greater stimulus in the thought that you are distributing knowledge and ideals which are being elaborated by the social processes into types and standards, elements of national character that will endure through generations; that in seeking to multiply connections with the people, in adapting your resources to their needs, in organizing these resources in the most available ways in arousing an interest among those whom you would serve, in carefully sifting the material which comes from the press, you are rendering a vital service to your country; you are helping to administer the social memory. This is an ideal which may well "take the imagination by storm," and fill you not with the evanescent emotion of the mass meeting, but with that steady glow of enthusiasm which endures in the daily duty. This ideal becomes effective through your technique, but that, in turn, without the vision, whatever its service to others, is for you mere lifeless mechanism.

On Wednesday evening, Marie L. Shedlock of London, who is lecturing in America on the art of story-telling, discussed the mirth and humor of Andersen, illustrating by some Andersen's tales, rendering them in an entertaining, artistic manner. It was a delightful treat.

Library institutes

Thursday morning was devoted to a discussion of library institutes based on the comprehensive report of Mr Eastman on that subject.

The question of expense and time was one that caused difficulty. Mr Dewey speaking on institutes said: We should make larger centers, concentrate the work and do it more thoroughly. University extension movement was a failure in nine-tenths of cases because of a lack of men and women with a genius for teaching. Cheap men and women are not competent to deal with this problem. The dropping off in the attendance is due to poor work. I think the solution of this question is to find in the United States the two or three men who have a genius for this line of work, not in a single state, but in a large territory, and pay him a large salary. Two or three states might combine. I do not believe in giving this work up, but I believe in looking it squarely in the face. My suggestion is that we make an earnest effort to get other states interested and combine and pay a salary of, say, \$5000 a year, to a man who is able to conduct institutes. If 10 states combined, it would only make \$500 a year each. Concentrate and have a really strong meeting. I do not believe at all in calling these little meetings institutes. It is not logical. I rather think that Mr Peck is right in saying that libraries that are supported by public taxation should be obliged to subject their librarians to such a stimulating influence. Dr Draper is going to overhaul his school institute system and make radical changes. Perhaps they have fulfilled their mission. This is the year to apply for state aid for library institutes. I do not approve of one-day institutes conducted by voluntary workers.

Miss Hawley of Brooklyn caused a ripple of laughter by saying Mr Dewey's \$5000 man would probably be a \$3000 woman.

Various speakers called attention to the following facts: People who do this work, do it voluntarily and at a

great expense of time and strength. The matter of time is a greater drain than money. Librarians who need it most can not get away from libraries which they run alone. It takes months sometimes to prepare for an institute. It does more good to go to the uninformed librarian and point out deficiencies in and suggest remedies for her own library.

The matter was finally left in the hands of the executive board and the institute committee with power to act.

The afternoon on Thursday being stormy, the association held a meeting. Mr Thomson of Philadelphia asked the coöperation of the association in preparing a supplement to the Classification of prose fiction recently issued by the Philadelphia free library. A committee was appointed to take up the matter.

The address of the afternoon was presented by Dr J. H. Canfield of Columbia university, who came up one night from New York city and went back the next, to fill his place on the program at great inconvenience and fatigue. He traced the lines of similarity of development of public schools and public libraries. The development of the work up to a professional standard has brought about greater security of position, longer tenure, better salary, and better social recognition.

On Thursday evening, Mae E. Schreiber, formerly of Wisconsin, now in the education department of New York state, told of the woeful lack of appreciation of the power and beauty of literature among the teachers in the common schools, and related her experiences in "opening the eyes of the blind" to the world of delight that lies in good books. Miss Schreiber's lecture seemed to point out again very forcefully how differently the librarian and the teacher "have caught the vision."

Several round tables devoted to cataloging, reference work, children's books, etc., were held, directed by Miss Hitchler of Brooklyn, Mr Champlin, reference department New York state library, and Miss Hazeltine. These were very helpful, giving a chance for questions and answers in a helpful way.

Dr Anderson from the Uppsala university, Sweden, was present and added much to the enjoyment of the meeting both professionally and socially. Rowing, mountain-climbing, walking, driving, golf, etc., afforded much pleasure despite the rain which appeared at intervals during the week. The Indian council, though held without a fire and within doors, gave room for many forms of frolic. Dancing in the evening after the meetings, story-telling at Mr Taylor's round tables, dinner parties despite the strictures of the Grand Mogul, renewal of old acquaintances and forming of new ones, all combined to make library week of 1904 one to be long remembered.

Officers for the year were elected as follows: President, W. R. Eastman, Albany; vice-president, Helen E. Haines, New York city; secretary, Ellen N. Chandler, Buffalo; treasurer, E. W. Gaillard, New York city.

Library Institute in Michigan

The first library institute under the auspices of the Michigan library association was held at Kalamazoo, September 22-23. The sessions were held in the lecture room of the Public library. The plan was to secure the attendance of the librarians of the libraries in the southwestern part of the state within easy access of the place of meeting to discuss together in an informal way the topics of practical interest, with a view to aid the library workers in the solution of the many problems which they must face in the line of their employment. Fourteen libraries were represented by 19 persons. The subject of book selections and ordering and trade bibliography was discussed by Genevieve M. Walton of the State normal college library; that of classifying, cataloging, shelf listing, etc., by Phebe Parker of the Sage library, West Bay City; that of aids and helps to readers, how to meet the public, etc., by C. F. Waldo of the Jackson public library, and that of handling periodicals, through subscription record to checking receipts

and final cataloging, loaning systems, registering card holders, etc., by H. M. Utley of the Detroit public library. Each conductor had an entire session of about three hours and the several subjects were thoroughly discussed. The members of the class were required to take notes and all were encouraged to ask questions, to bring in any matters which had proved puzzling in their library experience, and, in short, to make every available use of the opportunity to get practical good out of the meeting. Many expressed themselves as having derived great benefit from the institute. It was most successful from every point of view. The expectation is that other institutes will be held at convenient points central to other sections of the state, and that the legislature will at its session next winter make an appropriation sufficient to enable the state commission to carry on this institute work by paying at least the expenses of conductors and lecturers. The one just held serves as an opening wedge and an object lesson as to what can be done and the method of doing it.

H. M. UTLEY.

The Free library commission of Pennsylvania has issued as Bulletin no. 1, a pamphlet, Aids in book selection, by Sarah W. Cattell and Alice B. Kroeger. This is an evaluated list of sources of information concerning not books themselves, but book lists on all classes of books suitable for a small library. Suggestions are made as to where and how to buy books, and various hints as to best sources are given.

A slight criticism might be offered on the number of lists on special subjects mentioned that are several years old, when more up-to-date material might be had from library commissions. The A. L. A. catalog lists of 1893, articles in periodicals of 1897, Bowker and Iles on Economic social and political science, 1891, are examples of this. But notwithstanding this weakness, the Bulletin is a valuable tool for inexperienced librarians.

Library Meetings

California—A three days' convention of the Library association of California was held in the new library in Santa Cruz on Sept. 3, 4, and 5, 1904. Mayor Clark, in behalf of the people of Santa Cruz, extended a cordial welcome to the visiting members.

The general subject of discussion was Essentials and non-essentials in library work.

When the first day's meeting adjourned the members were requested to be present Sunday morning, as arrangements had been made to entertain the visitors by a drive to the various points of interest in and about Santa Cruz. After a delightful drive of several hours, during which beautiful views were obtained of Santa Cruz and the ocean from the hills about the city, a bountiful luncheon was served under the trees in Isabella grove. It was an ideal summer day and the spirit of hospitality as evinced by our hosts was so genuine that nothing more could be wished for to add to the day's enjoyment. Late in the afternoon the homeward drive was taken over the famous Cliff drive, and in the evening the visiting members were the guests of Mr Leask.

On Monday, September 5, the regular business meeting was called to order by Pres. Lichtenstein. He referred to the recent appointment of C. S. Greene (of Oakland library) to be state library trustee and said that both the governor and the association were to be congratulated on this auspicious event.

Miss A. J. Haines of the San Francisco public library read a paper on Essentials of classification and cataloging, and F. R. Graves of the Alameda public library read a paper on Rules and regulations, essentials and non-essentials. He spoke of the responsibilities of the librarian to the public and suggested that the rules and regulations be such as to protect the property of the library, yet with the minimum of restrictions against the freedom of use by the public. A paper by Nellie Russ of Pasadena public library on Es-

sentials and non-essentials in the children's room was read by Miss Weed.

At the close of Miss Russ' paper, Mr Rowell introduced the following resolution, seconded by Mr Stone of San Jose, which was adopted by a rising vote:

The Library association of California desires to congratulate the city of Santa Cruz upon its new library building, exquisitely beautiful within and without, accessibly located, and intelligently planned to meet the needs of the public and of the administration at least cost; upon the public spirit which has equipped and decorated the interior in so charming, inviting, and homelike manner; upon its shelves, freely open and well filled with choice books, that silently, but powerfully, appeal to the reader; and finally, upon its evident and earnest desire of the board of trustees and the enthusiastic effort of the librarian to render its contents available and useful.

We bear away a vivid impression of the beautiful city, and, in grateful memory of bountiful kindness, we place our services, both as individuals and as an association, at the command, unreservedly, of Santa Cruz.

After the meeting all present were invited to luncheon in the assembly room. The tables were beautifully decorated with choice flowers and bountifully supplied through the hospitality of the hosts. Pres. Lichtenstein acted as toast-master, and an enjoyable hour was spent. At the conclusion of the festivities, with expressions of regret, the librarians parted from their kind hosts.

MARGARET A. SCHMIDT, Sec.

The regular monthly meeting of the Library association of California was held Friday evening, October 14, at the Mechanics' institute library, San Francisco, Pres. Lichtenstein presiding.

Resolutions of respect to Horace H. Moore, many years librarian of Mercantile library in San Francisco were adopted and ordered spread upon the minutes.

J. C. Rowell of the State university library offered a resolution of congratulation and appreciation, which was unanimously adopted, upon the appointment of Charles T. Greene, librarian of the Oakland public library, to the board of trustees of the State library.

The regular program consisted of three excellent papers. The first was by Peter Robertson, the dramatic critic of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, on the Library and the theater. It was a presentation of the similarities and contrasts of the two in their general effect on the public mind, and was most enthusiastically received.

Sidney S. Peixotto, superintendent of the Columbia Park boys' club (S. F.), then gave an address on the peculiarities of a boy's taste in reading and the failure of the libraries to cater to the desire for literature of vivid action, which first wins the boy's attention and often leads him to form the habit of reading.

The Preparation of materials for a debate was the last number on the program, and in this Martin C. Flaherty, assistant professor of forensics, University of California, gave some hints to librarians on the amount of assistance to be given to those collecting such data, the tendency of the present day being to give too much aid and not always of the best character.

M. A. SCHMIDT, Sec.

Chicago—The first meeting of the year 1904-1905 was held Thursday evening, October 13, at the Chicago public library, Miss Ahern in the chair. The subject of the evening related to the work and object of the Chicago library club, and was introduced by the president in her address, in which professional advancement and fraternity were given as the broad, general reasons for the existence of the club.

Representatives from various libraries were called upon to give their views. These were practical elaborations of the general tenets above stated. The publishing of a handbook, maintenance of our outside interests, i. e., union lists, home libraries, use of the daily press, etc., reports on news of the day, talks from experts in other lines of work, round-tables for technical discussion and clearing up of current perplexities, were among the lines

of work suggested in the evening's discussion.

Miss Spencer, Miss Masse, and Mr Thompson were elected to membership.

By unanimous vote resolutions were adopted expressing the heartfelt sympathy of the club with Charles H. Brown in his recent bereavement.

RENEÉ B. STERN, Sec. pro tem.

Iowa—The Iowa library association held its annual meeting in the Iowa building at the World's Fair October 19. The meeting was presided over by Mrs H. J. Howe of Marshalltown.

Addresses of welcome were delivered by Pres. Fred W. Lehmann of the board of directors of the Public library, and former Gov. William Larrabee. Vice-pres. W. P. Payne responded in behalf of the Iowa library association.

Capt. W. H. Johnston delivered a memorial to Mrs Ada North, the first president of the association. Reports of officers and committees were heard.

Kansas—The fourth annual meeting of the State library association was held in the Kansas state building October 19. Zu Adams, assistant librarian State historical society library, Topeka, Kan., was elected president, and Lida Romig, librarian public library, Abilene, Kan., was elected secretary.

Missouri—The State library association met October 19, in the Missouri building, at St Louis. Committee reports were heard and new measures for library improvement were discussed. Action by the convention was taken on the changes recommended for state adoption in the Missouri library law. It is the purpose of the association to ask the Missouri legislature for a library commission of five members, to be appointed by the governor, who will have charge of the traveling libraries of the state. The officers elected were: President, T. J. Gerould, librarian of the Missouri state university, Columbia; first vice-president, Dr L. M. McAfee, Parkville, and secretary-treasurer, Faith Smith, librarian Public library, Sedalia,

Library Schools

Columbia university

Columbia university library, New York city, has selected by competitive examination an apprentice class of four who will study the coming year with Miss Prescott, and find practice in the library of the university. All have had library experience previously.

Drexel institute

The library class of 1904-1905 contains 19 members, representing the following: New York 3, Massachusetts 2, Rhode Island 1, Pennsylvania 4, Connecticut 1, Delaware 1, Texas 1, Iowa 1, Ohio 1, Indiana 1, Maryland 1, Michigan 1, Maine 1

New York state library

The New York state library school opened Wednesday, October 5, with 39 students from 17 different states and Hawaii, and representing 25 colleges.

The following states and colleges are represented: Colorado 1, Illinois 2, Kansas 1, Maine 2, Maryland 1, Massachusetts 4, Michigan 3, Minnesota 1, Nebraska 1, New Hampshire 1, New York 11, Ohio 3, Pennsylvania 1, Rhode Island 1, Utah 1, Vermont 2, Wisconsin 2, Hawaii 1, Berea college 1, Brown university 2, Colby college 1, Colgate university 1, College of the city of New York 1, Cornell university 3, Dartmouth college 2, Dewey college 1, Harvard college 1, Haverford college 1, Mount Holyoke college 2, Ohio university 1, Radcliffe college 1, Rutgers college 1, Smith college 4, Syracuse university 1, University of Illinois 1, University of Kansas 1, University of Michigan 4, University of Minnesota 1, University of Nebraska 1, University of Utah 1, University of Wisconsin 2, Vassar college 2, Wellesley college 2.

Besides the regular matriculated students, the following are doing special work: Mabel E. Prentiss, librarian Public library, Pomona, Cal., Clara B. Woodman, formerly assistant in the Springfield city library, and Grace M. McKnight, Cohoes, N. Y.

Calendar nineteenth school year 1904-1905

School opens Wednesday morning, October 5.

Election day, holiday, Tuesday, November 8.

Thanksgiving recess begins Wednesday noon, November 23.

Thanksgiving recess ends Monday noon, November 28.

Lectures begin Monday afternoon, November 28.

Christmas recess begins Friday morning, December 23.

Christmas recess ends Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 3, 1905.

Lectures begin Wednesday morning, January 4.

Lincoln's birthday, observed holiday, Monday, February 13.

Washington's birthday, holiday, Wednesday, February 22.

Visit to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington libraries, Tuesday, April 4, to Monday, April 17.

Lectures begin Tuesday morning, April 18.

Summer course begins Thursday morning, May 18.

Decoration day, holiday, Tuesday, May 30.

School closes Friday afternoon, June 23.

Summer course closes Friday afternoon, June 30.

SALOME CUTLER FAIRCHILD.

Pratt institute

Pratt institute free library has engaged Julia Wheelock and Julia G. Robeson of 1904 as assistants.

Annette P. Ward, 1904, has been appointed assistant librarian of the Woman's institute of Yonkers.

Mrs Arabella Jackson, 1903 and 1904, has been appointed to the vacancy created by the resignation of Caroline Burnite of the Carnegie library, Pittsburg.

Harriet B. Gooch, 1898, has resigned her position as head of the cataloging department in Portland (Ore.) public library to accept the same position in the Louisville (Ky.) public library, and undertakes her new duties November 1.

Edith Miller, 1903, has been engaged

as cataloger for the Educational museum, Teachers' college, New York.

The library school opened with 43 students on October 3. The following summary shows previous training: 3 college graduates, 7 with one or more years' college experience, 5 seminary or collegiate institute graduates, 1 normal school graduate, 5 high school graduates, 4 education irregular, 13 with library experience, 5 with previous library training.

Summary by states: New York 6, Massachusetts 4, New Jersey 4, California 2, Nebraska 2, Georgia 1, Illinois 1, Minnesota 1, Missouri 1, Ohio 1, Pennsylvania 1, Canada 1.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

Western Reserve university

The Library school of Western Reserve university, made possible by Mr Carnegie's endowment, opened September 20 in Adelbert hall, where comfortable and commodious quarters have been fitted up for the new school. The calendar conforms with the general calendar of the university except at the Easter vacation, when an extra week will be devoted to a tour of eastern libraries.

The first week of the school was devoted largely to visiting the different types of Cleveland libraries, particular attention being given to the various phases of work in the public library, preparatory to the study of library organization which will be carried throughout the course. Only junior work will be given the first year.

The regular class contains 15 students from abroad, while 15 from the staff of the Cleveland public library will take partial work with the privilege of a longer period in which to complete the work.

The majority of the students have had practical experience in library work, some of them holding a leave of absence from important positions to take this work.

WM. H. BRETT.

New York state library school

The eighth session of the summer school was held May 19 to June 30, and 15 students attended: 9 from New

York, 2 from Michigan, and 1 each from California, Indiana, Maryland, and Virginia. The plan so successfully started in 1903, of specialization along some one line of library work, was continued this year, reference work and bibliography being given.

The executive work of the school was in charge of Corinne Bacon, who has done Miss Sutliff's work in the regular school during her leave of absence.

The course in bibliography was in charge of the senior librarian, W. S. Biscoe, who gave 12 lectures on national and 14 on subject bibliography.

The principal instruction in reference work was given by D. V. R. Johnston, reference librarian, who gave 18 lectures. Mr Johnston's work was supplemented by 3 lectures by G. G. Champlin, assistant reference librarian, and 10 by Mary E. Hazeltine, Jamestown.

A number of miscellaneous lectures were given in order to bring students in touch with other faculty members and increase their general knowledge of library work.

The students listened to the alumni lectures, given this year by W. H. Brett, public librarian of Cleveland, on the Relation of the public library and public school to other educational activities; to a talk by E. G. Routzahn on the Relation of the library to civic improvement, and to the following additional lectures by visiting librarians:

A. L. Peck: Book buying.

Miss Kroeger, Drexel institute: Place of the library in technical education; Reference work.

Miss Hewins, Hartford public library: Children's books which librarians can not afford not to know (3 lectures).

Clara W. Hunt, Brooklyn public library: The successful children's librarian; Planning and equipment of the children's room; Selection of books for the children's room.

Students interested in special subjects, omitted, or briefly touched in the course, such as traveling libraries, work for the blind, book mending, picture bulletins, etc., were given every facility for obtaining fuller information. MELVIL DEWEY.

News from the Field

East

Charles Francis Adams 2nd has been elected trustee of the Public library of Concord, Mass.

New Bedford (Mass.) public library has received a bequest of \$250,000 by the will of Mrs S. B. Potter of Boston.

A. L. Wyman, formerly connected with the library department of the Boston office, has terminated his connection with the Library Bureau.

The Maine state library has received from the Portland public library 26v. of the *Christian mirror* dated 1822-1845, and 17v. of the *Portland transcript*, 1860-1875.

The Boston public library has arranged for three courses of lectures to be given at the library this winter upon Architecture, Local art museums, and a Grecian tour. Other subjects have been arranged for by various societies.

Frances Hobart, of Cambridge, Vt., Drexel institute library school '04, has been appointed assistant secretary of the Vermont library commission, and in charge of the traveling libraries, with headquarters, at Cambridge, Vt.

Relative to the free public libraries in the state of Maine, State librarian Carver in his report finds that about \$40,000 has been appropriated this year by the cities and towns for the support of such libraries. This is a larger amount than usual, and in fact, is so large that the state appropriation for the aid of these libraries proves to be too small. There are 90 free public libraries in Maine cities and towns supported by public taxation, and 12 libraries wholly supported by the income from private bequests.

Central Atlantic

The general summary of the report of New York public library, showing the public use of the library and its various branches, is as follows:

Arthur L. Bailey has been appointed librarian of the Wilmington institute

library to succeed G. F. Bowerman, who has gone to Washington (D. C.) public library.

The department of libraries of the public schools of New York city has issued a graded and annotated catalog of books in the public school libraries of that city.

The first of the Carnegie library buildings, to be known as the Pacific branch of the Brooklyn public library, was dedicated and opened for public service October 8.

Mabel Colcord, New York '02, has resigned her position as acting librarian of the State university of Iowa to become librarian at the Bureau of entomology, Department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Dorthea H. Hygen of the New York state library school '03 and '04, has been appointed assistant in the catalog division of the Library of congress. Miss Hygen was engaged during the summer in the cataloging department of Harvard university library.

A correspondent in the Brooklyn public library writes: Our Pacific branch opened on October 8, for "ceremonies" and inspection, and on Monday, October 10, for use. It is our first Carnegie building and an entirely new branch. It is a detached three-story building, costing about \$90,000, with furniture and fittings. We opened with about 9000v., and will add rapidly to the collection. On the first day of work we had about 1500 people come in. Of these 754 registered and received borrowers' cards and 463 books went out.

A branch of the Newark (N. J.) free public library was opened October 1 at 16 Academy st., and 500v., chiefly fiction, travel, biography and literature, may be borrowed at the rate of a cent a day as long as they are wanted. The professional and business men and women in the neighborhood of the center of the town often can not take the time to get books from the main library, and the experiment is

being tried to bring the books to them. Much as the board of trustees and librarian would like to start an absolutely free branch of the library, it is necessary to make this nominal charge toward defraying expenses. The idea has met with general favor and it is hoped that this small beginning will lead to the establishment of regular branch libraries all over the city. The newspapers of the town have spoken favorably of it.

In the reference branches readers and visitors numbered 184,222; 128,872 desk applicants consulted 524,097v. (corresponding figures for 1902-1903 being 110,162 desk applicants and 439,465v.); 25,012v. and 75,458 pamphlets were received; 27,100v. and 15,715 pamphlets were accessioned, making the total number available for readers 629,506v. and 240,337 pamphlets. The print department now contains 93 380 prints; there has been little increase in the music, map or manuscript departments. There were cataloged 34,897v. and 31,315 pamphlets, for which 291,380 cards were written or manifolded; the public catalogs in the Astor and Lenox reading rooms contain now 1,117,886 cards; 1571 periodicals are indexed number by number, for which 18,950 cards or printers' slips were written. Periodicals currently received amount to 5155, readers of periodicals at the Astor branch 27,055, and these readers called for 218,033 single number or pieces.

In the circulation department the number of branches has increased from 19 to 22v. in the department from 321,945 to 384,399, circulation for home use from 2,801,331 to 3,291,374. Two Carnegie branches have been opened; three others are ready for opening; 12 new sites have been secured. There is now a total of 22 sites available for or occupied by Carnegie branches.

Central

Whiting, Ind., a town of 5000 people, has voted a library appropriation of \$4750 a year.

The Ryerson library at Grand Rapids, Mich., was formally presented to the

city and dedicated to public service on October 5. Pres. James B. Angell made the principal address.

M. A. Ryerson of Chicago has given a five-year paid up fire insurance on the new Public library building of Grand Rapids, Mich., to the board of trustees of that institution.

The Hackley public library at Muskegon, Mich., has received a set of Stevens Facsimiles of manuscripts in European archives relating to America, as a gift from C. H. Hackley.

William Fargher, owner of the most complete Manx library in the United States, and co-laborer of Hall Caine in some of the Manx stories, died October 12, in LaPorte, Ind., at the age of 73.

Gertrude P. Humphrey, librarian of Public library at Lansing, has been elected secretary of Michigan library association, to succeed Flora B. Roberts, who has gone to be librarian of State normal school at Warrensburg, Mo.

The Library commission of Indiana has appointed Ida M. Mendenhall, a graduate of Earlham college and of Pratt institute library school, and a teacher for four years, to take charge of the library work with schools. Plans along various lines will be followed with a view to a more effective coöperation between schools and libraries.

The fifty-second annual report of R.G. Thwaites as secretary of the Wisconsin historical society notes the increase in the society's library as 11,990 titles, making the present total of 260,000 titles. The growth of the society's collections has already crowded the various departments and it is probable that the next legislature will be asked to build the north wing of the building.

The children's room in the Cincinnati public library has grown in favor with the "business boy" until the noon hour has become a decided feature. A remarkably large number of messenger, office and errand boys between the ages of 12 and 16 go in daily between 12 and 1 o'clock to read and often-

times to study. They come in hurriedly, watch the clock from time to time, leaving a few minutes before the end of the hour. Many times they ask to have the books they are using laid aside so they may come at them quickly the next day. This noon-hour crowd is one of the most interesting of the groups that visit the library.

The Public library of Detroit is holding an exhibit of the best work of noted printers, past and present. Among the examples of celebrated presses are the Aldine, Venice, 1502, 1518, 1521, 1545, etc.; Giunta, Venice, 1514, 1567; Elzevir, 1652, 1671; Delphine, Paris, 1678; Foulis, Glasgow, 1748, 1762; Barbou, Paris, 1754, 1758; Franklin, Philadelphia, 1744; Plantin, Antwerp, 1626; Stephens, Paris, 1566, 1581; Baskerville, Birmingham, England, 1757, 1773; Strawberry Hill, 1762; Bodoni, Paris, 1794.

There are also specimens of the work turned out by the more noted of the modern printers. Among them are those of the Ballantyne press, London, 1896; Cambridge university press, 1896; Doves press (Cobden-Sanderson), London, 1902; Kelmscott (Wm. Morris), 1897; Chiswick, London, 1900. Of the work of American printers, there are samples of books turned out by the Riverside press, De Vinne, etc. There are also good examples of the American presses which have undertaken fine work. Among these are Elston, New Rochelle, N. Y., Wayside (Bradley), San Francisco, Roycroft, East Aurora, etc.

West

Manly D. Ormes has been elected librarian of Coburn library at Colorado Springs, to succeed Malcolm G. Wyer, who resigned to go to University of Iowa library.

South

Jessica G. Cone, New York '95, has been appointed assistant librarian at University of West Virginia, Morgantown, W. Va.

Edna A. Brown, B. L. S., New York

'98, has received an appointment as cataloger in the Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas.

Mary E. Dunham, New York state library school '03 and '04, has been appointed first assistant of University of Texas library, Austin, Texas.

A league has been organized in the south to spread libraries through the small villages of that section. It is called the Southern development league and by lecture courses hopes to raise funds for its purpose. The president is Dr F. O. Hellier of Atlanta, and the headquarters of the league is in the famous home of Gen. B. Gordon, near Atlanta, Ga.

Pacific coast

The Public library of Pasadena, Cal., will rent collections of popular novels from the Booklover's library, which will in turn be rented to borrowers for the coming year.

Members of the staff of the Public library of Portland presented Harriet B. Gooch, acting librarian, with a silver loving cup, October 15. Miss Gooch resigned her position to join the staff of the new Public library of Louisville, Ky.

Canada

Sydney B. Mitchell, New York state library school '03 and '04, has been appointed cataloger at the McGill university library, Montreal, Canada.

Foreign

Those who desire to forward material to the Biblioteca Nazionale of Turin, which met such heavy losses last winter by fire, may forward any gift of books which they wish to make through the firm of Bretano, Union square, New York city.

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